



A Place-Based Professional Development Workshop Series Connecting Youth & Communities Along the Appalachian Trail



A TRAIL TO EVERY CLASSROOM

Rediscover the outdoors and your sense of exploration while learning effective, meaningful ways to lead your students to their own discoveries of nature, physical challenges, and the distinctiveness of their own communities.

The significance of the Appalachian Trail is not its length but its story of civic engagement in preserving a recreational, natural, cultural, spiritual, and now, educational, resource for challenges and dreams.

Through this cumulative series of three workshops you will create your own experiential learning curriculum based on state educational standards that integrates hands-on study of Appalachian Trail resources in your community and the option of teacher and student networks from Georgia to Maine.

“The Trail to Every Classroom program engages young people in nature. It brings together Trail managers, teachers, and children, allowing a safe pace to engage in physical exercise, explore nature, learn about the Trail as a natural and cultural resource, and collectively get their hands dirty. This is exactly the kind of program we need to see more of as a way to connect children to nature.” Richard Louv, Author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, 2005.

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Learning in-place leads to exploration afar

Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, math, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances students' appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. (David Sobel, *Place-Based Education Connecting Classrooms & Communities*, 2004)



"You have transformed me, my teaching, and my entire school – Thank you!" – 2007 Participant

A Trail to Every Classroom is based upon the successful *Forest for Every Classroom* program in Vermont, as well as current research from the Corporation for National & Community Service and the National Youth Leadership Council:

- students engaged in real-world learning within their local communities have higher literacy rates and are more likely to succeed than those who learn through a traditional textbook approach;
- students engaged in quality service-learning activities are twice as likely to become active volunteers and be engaged citizens as adults

"I've been teaching more than 20 years, and this is the best conference I've ever been to!" – 2006 Participant

Workshop Series Overview:

• 1st Local Spring Workshop:

Introduces teams of teachers to the Trail and its resources locally

• Summer Institute

Brings all participants together focusing on Place Based Education, Service-Learning, and curriculum planning

• 2nd Local Fall Workshop

Focuses on curriculum implementation and sustainability

Highlights:

- The TTEC program is offered free of charge including all lodging, meals, and materials;
- Presenters include national experts in Place-Based Education, Service-Learning and Curriculum Development;
- 5 graduate credits are optional and offered for a fee of \$235.00 through Lebanon Valley College. Credits awarded December 2008;
- Continued support through a network of educators, resource specialists, and trail management partners.

Physical Demands:

You must be willing to hike up to 5 miles in one day. Oh come on, you can do it! Leki is even providing trekking poles for each participant providing a greater level of security and balance.

TTEC Partners:



Appalachian Trail
Conservancy



National Park
Service

Additional partners &
sponsors include:

Center for Place-Based
Learning & Civic
Engagement

United States Forest Service

PA Department of
Conservation & Natural
Resources

Lebanon Valley College

REI

Leki

Virginia Environmental
Endowment

30 Affiliated AT Trail Clubs
– see
www.appalachiantrail.org for
complete list

*“It’s changing an entire
system of thinking, from
the teachers down to the
kids.” – 2006 TTEC
Alumnus, Educator*

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The focus areas for 2008 include New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia.

The workshop series includes two 2-day local workshops, and a 5-day summer institute bringing together teachers from Georgia to Maine!

Local Workshop Dates & Locations

New England:

May 16-17 (Friday & Saturday), Appalachian Mountain Club’s Joe Dodge Lodge, Gorham, NH

New Jersey/Pennsylvania:

May 30-31 (Friday & Saturday), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary & Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA

Virginia:

May 2-3 (Friday & Saturday), Mountain Lake Hotel, Pembroke, VA

Tennessee/North Carolina/Georgia:

April 25-26 (Friday & Saturday), Len Foote Hike Inn, Amicalola Falls State Park, Dawsonville, GA

Fall dates for all regions TBA

Summer Institute Dates & Location

All participants

July 14-18
(Monday – Friday)
The National
Conservation
Training Center,
Shepherdstown, WV



“Absolutely fabulous, top-notch facility.” -2006 Participant

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The workshop series is offered free of charge including food, lodging and materials. Travel costs are available on a limited basis. Participants are responsible for the cost of graduate credit - payment due at Summer institute

Name _____

School _____

District _____

Position _____

Teammates
Also Applying _____

Administrator's name _____

Preferred
Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Tel _____ Home Tel _____

Email _____

Please provide a letter of support from your administrator as part of this application & respond to the following questions on a separate page:

1. How does your school currently incorporate place-based education and service-learning in curriculum?
2. Please describe what you hope to gain professionally and personally by participating in TTEC

Application Form

Due February 29, 2008

**Due Date Extended to
March 15, 2008!**

Teams of two or more from each school are encouraged to apply. Individuals also welcome.

You should be willing to:

- Come with the strong support of your administrator ;
- Participate in ALL workshops and summer session;
- Be willing to hike 5 miles in one day during Spring Workshop;
- Develop a trail-based teaching unit which utilizes the local landscape and meets the goals of your school and grade level expectations, exemplifying the best practices of Place-Based Education & Service Learning;
- Provide written documentation of your curriculum for possible inclusion in a model program to be disseminated nationally;
- Participate in program evaluations

**Return your completed application, including letter of support by
February 29, 2008**

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